UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461) DATE: 10/9/64

FROM : SAC J. GORDON SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

On 10/9/64 at 8:30 AM, Special Agent ROBERT P. GEMBERLING and I interviewed Chief of Police JESSE E. CURRY at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Dallas.

I pointed out to him the article which had appeared in the Washington Post on 10/8/64. I advised him that certain portions of this letter which he was purported to have written certainly gave an erroneous impression. Particular reference was made to the fact that I had called him and said that we were extremely desirous that he retract his statement to the press. I discussed with him my conversation on November 23rd and he readily agreed that when I called him, I told him I wanted him to straighten out the inaccuracies and that I definitely told him that we had not interviewed OSWALD in Dallas and we had no information that he was capable of assassinating the President. He also agreed that I did not ask him to cover up anything, but that I specifically asked him to straighten out these two features. He has no recollection of any mention made by him of us having OSWALD under surveillance. He stated that he does not actually now recall what he has said, and would have to have the tape to know.

He stated that he never intended to give the impression that we were trying to get him to cover up anything. He also readily admitted that when confronted with these statements by me, he stated he told me he did not know who had made the above statements.

It was pointed out to CURRY that this article certainly left the wrong impression and that he was either definitely mistaken or gave misleading information, and he agreed that as far as he was concerned, if the reporter who wrote the article would call him, he would answer questions as follows:

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GORDON SHANKLIN did call me shortly after I made the statement on TV on Saturday, November 23, 1963 and said that my statement was not correct and wanted me to correct it. He said the FBI had not interviewed OSWALD in Dallas and did not know he was capable of assassinating the President. I then appeared before the news media and corrected my statement to this extent: that to my own personal knowledge, the FBI did not know OSWALD was in Dallas or that he was capable of assassinating the President.

SHANKLIN did not ask me to cover up anything, but his contention was that the FBI had not interviewed OSWALD in Dallas and did not know he was capable of assassinating the President.

CURRY did admit that he had written a letter to Chief Justice Warren, answering certain questions. It was pointed out to CURRY that a portion of this letter says, "When I received the report"(referring to REVILL's report)"I immediately realized the gravity and seriousness of the information it contained. On that date before newsmen, I stated I had received information that the FBI knew of OSWALD's presence in Dallas and that the Dallas Police Department had no information on OSWALD in its file and that this statement was based on the report of REVILL. Within a few minutes of my statement to the press, I received a telephone call from GORDON SHANKLIN . . .

I pointed out to CURRY then that actually my call to him was on the 23rd and that he had actually appeared on television on the 23rd, and that I had asked him to correct statements made on TV and that I had never told him that we did not know that OSWALD was in Dallas at the time of the assassination, and that I had never asked him to correct any such statement.

CURRY said, "I was just so confused I don't know what I said and the only possible way I would know would be to hear the tape."

I at this time again pointed out to him that when I had called him on the 23rd, I specifically asked him the source of his information, and that he had told me he didn't recall; that he had heard it from someone Friday night and that if it had been based on REVILL's memorandum, that he was certainly mistaken or deliberately failing to tell me of the existence of Lt. REVILL's memo.

CURRY then went back to his office and upon my returning to the Dallas Office, he called me and stated that he would have to clear anything with the City Manager as he had been told not to make any further statements.

I immediately called Assistant to the Director C. D. DeLOACH and gave him the results of my interview with CURRY and told him that CURRY, while personally willing to clarify this matter with the reporter, insisted that he had to clear with his City Manager.

At approximately 10:15 AM, CURRY called back and stated that the City Manager had told him he could make absolutely no further statements of any kind and that he had already talked too much, and therefore he would have to answer any inquiries with no comment.

I relayed this information by telephone to Assistant Director C. D. DeLOACH, who stated that they would call me back later as to the exact method they were going to answer it. He indicated they would probably make the release in Washington, and would let me know.